

Chinese-American Tokens

from

The Pacific Coast

2nd Supplement

華美



錄圖
幣用代商
華岸沿洋平太及洲美

Compiled and Edited by Jerry F. Schimmel

2nd Supplement
to
CHINESE-AMERICAN TOKENS
FROM THE PACIFIC COAST
by Jerry F. Schimmel



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Comments for The 2nd Supplement

It's nearly fifty years since R.F. Herberg published his *Chinese-American Tokens* monograph in 1970, less for the short time spent by Dan Ching writing about the series before he passed away too soon. There were others like Bob Ambrose in Washington State whose collection was sold off to collectors like myself and got me started with a first listing in 2004 leading to the main catalog five years later. Both were followed by articles in the *TAMS Journal*, the *First Supplement* in 2014 and now the *Second* in 2018.

At this writing it's certain that around eighty-five percent of Chinese-American tokens were issued in California, mostly between 1910 and 1950 though a few circulated well before then. The main distribution area lay roughly between Marysville in the north to Los Angeles in the south, and from the Pacific Coast to the Sierra foothills in the east.

Significant issuers were located in Arizona, Hawai'i, Oregon and Washington State. Single tokens come from localities in the Midwest and East as well as Canada and Latin America. In sheer numbers produced more than half of Chinese-American tokens were made for gambling.

Interest is strong for tokens which have English alphabet legends and prices for them can often be in three figures. They were merchant tokens and thus made in small numbers. There is less attraction for tokens entirely in Chinese which were mainly for gambling and rarely give any indication of provenance.

Thanks go to Richard Greever who provided me with the results of his study of Chinese-related images on Anillo Corporation restrikes. My appreciation also goes to John Mutch of the *Token and Medal Society*, The *Shanghai Token Society* for its comprehensive images of tokens from that city, the *El Dorado County Museum* for its information on the *Go To Ma's* token from Placerville, Duane Feisel for the *Con Dui Club* tokens, and to the late Ron Lerch for vital advice and information which in days to come I will greatly miss.

I need to acknowledge my teachers, Geoff Baldwin who patiently translated obscure token legends and my wise guide in matters Chinese, the late Ying Ren Rong, "Ray" of Shanghai.

Please note the paragraphs in which I have inserted parenthetical instructions e.g. (See pp. 30-31 & 47). These refer to pages in the original 2009 catalog. If from another reference, the source is mentioned.

For most questions go back to the original catalog for things like scarcity ratings, images, and material like Chinese numerals, though I am always happy to reply to all questions. I always look for new listings and will buy singles or lots of Chinese-American pieces that I need for study. Best wishes to you all.

August 15, 2018
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California - English Alphabet Legends



Armona -2



Courtland - 1-500



Los Angeles - 10-100 and 10-500



Monterey - 1



Oakland - 15-25

California - English Alphabet Legends

Armona (Kings)

2. Eight-lobed brass 28 plain borders. R
O: **Mon Ming** / Good (circle in sunburst) For / **Cigars**
R: 文公 / 明司 (*mon ming gung si* - Mon Ming [personal name] Company)

Courtland (Sacramento)

- 1-500. Aluminum 35mm beaded borders. V
O: **Moy's Place** / (ornament) / **Courtland** / Calif.
R: Good For / **\$500** / In Trade

Los Angeles (Los Angeles)

- 10-100. Aluminum 38 denticled borders. S
O: **Con Dui** / • **\$100** • / **Club**
R: **\$100** (counterstamp 群 / 敘 - *group meeting*)
10-500. Brass 21.5 denticled borders.
O: & R: (As preceding with counterstamp but) **\$500**

Monterey (Monterey)

- 1-1. Brass 21. V
O: **Quong Sun Kee** / 𠵽 / PATRICK & CO. S.F.
R: Good For / 1 / Cigar

Oakland (Alameda)

- 15-25. Brass 23.5 denticled borders. R
O: Good For / (ornament) / **25¢** / (ornament) / ★ **Lew Gong** ★
R: 江 劉 (*Lew Gong* - a personal name)

California - English Alphabet Legends



Placerville - 1



San Francisco - 48



San Rafael - 1-50

California – English Alphabet Legends

Placerville (El Dorado)

1. Brass 21 line borders, no raised rim. R
 O: **Go / Ma's / To**
 R: **Stone House** / ☒ (within 4 rays) / **. Placerville .**

San Francisco (San Francisco)

48. Brass 24mm beaded borders. R
 O: **Lee Sing** / 672 / Jackson / St. / San Francisco
 R: (ornament) / **Lee Sing** / (ornament)

San Rafael (Marin)

- 1-50. Aluminum 28mm beaded borders. R
 O: **Kwong Duck Wo** (curved abv.) / (orn.) / 914 C St. / (ornament) /
San Rafael
 R: **Good For / 50¢ / In / Merchandise**

California -Chinese Character Legends



San Francisco - C4-5



Stockton - C1-10



Stockton - C2-10

California -Chinese Character Legends

San Francisco (San Francisco)

- C4-5. Brass 21.5 denticled borders. S
 O: 大 / 隆 (*Dai Lung* - great prosperity)
 R: Good For / 5¢ / In Trade

Stockton (San Joaquin)

Chung

- C1-10. Brass 19.5 denticled borders. V
 O: 10 / 松 / Points (*chung* - pine tree)
 R: Good For / ⑩ / Point Count

Cheung

(Probable reverses are based on those of the **Chung** series from Stockton, Nos. C1-5 though C1-2000 like the one above which bear the same reverse designs as No. C2-10 below. Denominations of "points" instead of cash symbols were used to confuse authorities who might want to close down the game. New listings are courtesy of Richard Greever.)

- C2-5. Uniface Anillo Die Trial. aluminum 22mm. X
 O: 昌 (Cheung - make prosperous)
 R: (Probably Good For / ⑤ / Point Count)
- C2-10. Brass 19.5 denticled borders. V
 O: (As C2-5.)
 R: Good For / ⑩ / Point Count
- C2-25. Uniface Anillo Die Trial. aluminum 26mm. X
 O: (As C2-10.)
 R: (Probably ②⑤ Point Count)
- C2-500. Uniface Anillo Die Trial. aluminum 29mm. X
 O: (As C2-10.)
 R: (Possibly 500 Point Count)
- C2-50. Uniface Anillo Die Trial. aluminum 32mm. X
 O: (As C2-10.)
 R: (Probably ⑤⑩ Point Count)
- C2-?. Uniface Anillo Die Trial. aluminum 38mm. X
 O: (As C2-10.)
 R: (Possibly ⑩ or ②⑩ Point Count)

California -Chinese Character Legends



Stockton - C7-20



Stockton - obverse for C8-1 and all following.

California –Chinese Character Legends

Stockton (concluded)

Hop Lee

- C7-10. Uniface Anillo Die Trial. aluminum 19mm. X
O: (Probably as C7-20.)
 R: 壹 / 毫 (Yat Hu - 10¢)
- C7-20. Aluminum 25 denticled borders. (From two separate Anillo Die Trial specimens.) X
O: 合 / 利 (hop / lee - gather benefit)
 R: 貳 / 毫 (yee hu - 20¢)
- C7-50. Uniface Anillo Die Trial. aluminum 32mm. X
O: (Probably as C7-20.)
 R: 伍 / 毫 (Ngh Hu - 50¢)

Hop Lee Club

(Denominations of “tokens” instead of dollars and cents were used to confuse authorities who might want to close down the game. It’s likely each “token” was equivalent to one dollar. From 1950s. New listings are courtesy of Richard Greever.)

- C8-1. Blue anodized aluminum 36 denticled borders. S
O: 利合 / 部樂俱 (hop lee / kuey lok bu - gather benefit club)
 R: 壹 / 枚 (yat muih - 1 token)
- C8-5. Uniface Anillo Die Trial. aluminum 36mm. X
O: (Probably as C8-1)
 R: 伍 / 枚 (ngh muih - 5 tokens)
- C8-10. Uniface Anillo Die Trial. aluminum 36mm. X
O: (Probably as C8-1)
 R: 拾 / 枚 (sahp muih - 10 tokens)
- C8-50. Uniface Anillo Die Trial. aluminum 36mm. X
O: (Probably as C8-1)
 R: 伍 / 枚拾 (ngh muih sah - 50 tokens)
- C8-100. Red anodized aluminum 36 denticled borders. S
O: (As C8-1)
 R: 壹 / 枚佰 (yat bak muih - 100 tokens)

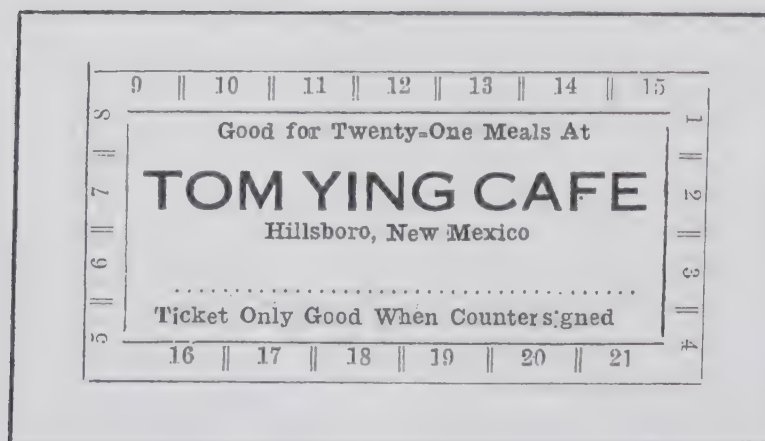
Hawaii, Illinois and New Mexico



Pahala - 1-5, 1-10, and 1-25



Chicago - 2



Hillsboro - 1

Hawaii, Illinois and New Mexico

Hawai'i - English Alphabet Legends

Pahala (Hawaii County)

- 1-5. Brass 18 plain borders. V
O: **Ah Ling** / (incuse serial no.) / Pahala.
R: **Good For / 5¢ / * In Merchandise ***
- 1-10. Brass 24 recessed denticled borders. V
O: (Same as 1-5)
R: **Good For / 10¢ / In / Merchandise**
- 1-25. Brass 28 recessed beaded borders. V
O: (Same as 1-5)
R: **Good For / 25¢ / In Merchandise**

Illinois - English Alphabet Legends

Chicago (Cook)

2. Brass 21 beaded borders. V
O: (ornament) / **Wee Ying Lo** / (ornament)
R: (a single raised dot in the center)

New Mexico - English Alphabet Legends

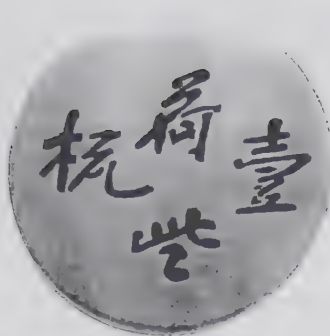
Hillsboro (Sierra)

- 1-21. White cardstock 68x50, black letters, numbers one to twenty-one around edge. S
O: Good for **Twenty-One Meals At / Tom Ying Cafe /**
Hillsboro, New Mexico / (row of 39 dots) /
Ticket Only Good When Countersigned
R: (blank)

Oregon, Latin-America,
Unattributed - English



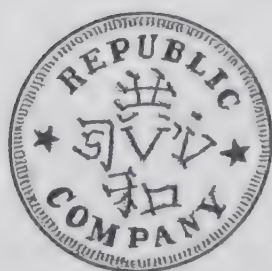
Portland - C1-A26



Lima, Peru - C1-100

(no)
(illustration)
(available)

Unattributed - C1-5



Unattributed - C17-50



Unattributed - C28-25



(no)
(illustration)
(available)

Unattributed - C29-5

**Oregon, Latin-America,
Unattributed - English**

Oregon - Chinese Character Legends

Portland (Multnomah)

- C1-A26 Aluminum 26 denticled borders. S
O: & R: 公 / 信 (*Kung Sun - public confidence within Masonic compass & square*)

Latin-America - Chinese Character Legends

Lima (Peru)

- C1-100. Brass 38 no raised rims. Incuse legend. S
O: (?) / 秘 壹 / (?) (rt. to lft. *Yat Mi* - one [*So!*] in Peru currency;
top to bottom characters unreadable; very likely name of establishment)
R: I

Unattributed Tokens - English Alphabet Legends

- C1-5. Brass 21 plain border obverse, denticled reverse. V
O: **Chung** / (ornaments) / **Jow**
R: Good For / ♦ 5¢ / In Trade
16. **Quong Sun Kee** re-assigned to Monterey, California. See above.
- 17-50. Brass 30.5 denticled borders V
O: **Republic** / 共 / ★ 司 V 公 ★ / 和 / **Company**
(*Gung Wo Gung Si* - Republic Company; V for Victory)
R: 50¢
- C28-25. Aluminum 24mm line borders. S
O: **Yellow** / 共 和 / **Front** (*Gung Wo* - republic)
R: Good For / 25 / ¢ / In Trade
- 29-25. **Lew Gong** re-assigned to Oakland, California. See above.
- C29-5. Octagonal brass 20.5 denticled border obverse. V
O: ★ / **Charlie** / ★ / **Wai** / ★★★
R: (*Good For 5¢ In Trade, reverse not available for examination*)

Unattributed Tokens

Chinese Character Legends



C2-10



C19-5



C25-2



C26-50



C27-100

Unattributed Tokens

Chinese Character Legends

C2-10.	Brass 18mm beaded borders. O: 共 / 和 (<i>Gung Wo</i> - republic) R: Good For / 10 / In Trade	S
C4-5.	大 / 隆 (<i>Dai Lung</i>) Reassigned to San Francisco. See above.	
C19-5.	Aluminum 18mm beaded borders. O: 新 / 利 (<i>Sun Lee</i> - New Benefit) R: 5	S
C25-2.	Brass 24.5mm recessed denticled borders. O: 美 / 華 / 隆 (<i>Mei Wah Lung</i> - American Chinese Prosperity) R: Good For / ★ 2 ★ / Cigars	V
C26-50.	Octagonal brass 29.5mm beaded borders. O: 榮 (<i>Wing</i> - honor, glory, a family name) R: Good For / 50¢ / In Trade	V
C27-100.	Aluminum 30mm beaded borders. O: & R: 源 協 / 壹 (<i>Yun Hip</i> - source of harmony, \$1)	V

China

Shanghai - The E.T. Riley Tokens



13-10.



14-10.



6-10.



16-10.



18-10.



19-10.



20-10.



9-10.



9-10a.



21-10.



22-10.



23-10.



10-10.



25-10.



26-10.



28-10.



29-10.



30-10.



31-10.



32-10.



33-10.



34-10.



35-10.



The three token reverses.

China

Shanghai - See 1st Supplement pp. 12-15 & 23-24

3-10.	Brass 21 legend incuse, no raised rim. O: Abraham's (curved above) R: 10¢ / Trade / E.T.R.	S
14-10.	Brass 21 legend incuse, no raised rim. O: A La / Rotunda R: 10¢ / Trade / E.T.R.	S
15-10.	Brass 21 legend incuse, no raised rim. O: (American Bar - obverse not examined) R: 10¢ / Trade / E.T.R.	S
16-10.	Brass 21 legend incuse, no raised rim. O: Barcelona (curved above) R: 10¢ / Trade / E.T.R.	S
17-10.	Brass 21 legend incuse, no raised rim. O: (Bolero K.N.C. - obverse not examined) R: 10¢ / Trade / E.T.R.	S
18-10.	Brass 21 legend incuse, no raised rim. O: C R: 10¢ / Trade	S
19-10.	Brass 21 legend incuse, no raised rim. O: Constantinople (curved abv) / Propety (sic) / . Restaurant . (curved below) R: 10¢ / Trade / E.T.R.	S
20-10.	Brass 21 legend incuse, no raised rim. O: Cozy / Corner R: 10¢ / Trade / E.T.R.	S
21-10.	Brass 21 legend incuse, no raised rim. O: De La Paix R: 10¢ / Trade / E.T.R.	S

China
Shanghai

22-10.	Brass 21 legend incuse, no raised rim. O: Domino / Cafe R: 10¢ / Trade / E.T.R.	S
23-10.	Brass 21 legend incuse, no raised rim. O: Farren's R: 10¢ / Trade / E.T.R.	S
24-10.	Brass 21 legend incuse, no raised rim. O: (George's Bar - obverse not examined) R: 10¢ / Trade / E.T.R.	S
25-10.	Brass 21 legend incuse, no raised rim. O: King / Kong R: 10¢ / Trade / E.T.R.	S
26-10.	Brass 21 legend incuse, no raised rim. O: Laci / Bar R: 10¢ / Trade / E.T.R.	S
27-10.	Brass 21 legend incuse, no raised rim. O: (Little Navy Bar - obverse not examined) R: 10¢ / Trade / E.T.R.	S
28-10.	Brass 21 legend incuse, no raised rim. O: Manhattan (curved above) / Bar R: 10¢ / Trade / E.T.R.	S
29-10.	Brass 21 legend incuse, no raised rim. O: Manila / Bar R: 10¢ / Trade	S
30-10.	Brass 21 legend incuse, no raised rim. O: Mars / Cafe R: 10¢ / Trade / E.T.R.	S

China
Shanghai

- | | | |
|--------|---|---|
| 31-10. | Brass 21 legend incuse, no raised rim.
O: Pop's / Place
R: 10¢ / Trade / E.T.R. | S |
| 32-10. | Brass 21 legend incuse, no raised rim.
O: E.T. / Riley
R: 10¢ / Trade / E.T.R. | S |
| 33-10. | Brass 21 legend incuse, no raised rim.
O: Roseland (curved above) / Bar
R: 10¢ / Trade | S |
| 34-10. | Brass 21 legend incuse, no raised rim.
O: Sevilla
R: (Reverse not available for examination) | S |
| 35-10. | Brass 21 legend incuse, no raised rim.
O: (orn.) Vallon / Rest't (orn.)
R: (orn.) 10¢ / Trade / E.T.R. (orn.) | S |



Documentation and Commentary

CALIFORNIA

English Alphabet Legends

Armona

2. **Mon Ming Co.** A type identical to Armona #1 except that its shape is 8-lobed, not round. Mon Ming is still not traced. (See pp. 3 & 87; also Album 05D in 1st Supplement and Kappen 9 in 2nd book)

Courtland

1-500. **Moy's Place.** An addition to nos. 1-25 and 1-50 which have similar obverse designs. The three suggest a series of gambling tokens like those used in Stockton. Other denominations may be 5¢, 10¢ and \$1 as yet unrecorded. The "Moy" is Jang Moy, a leading partner of the Yat Sun Co. in Courtland (See p.7, 88 & 187; Kappen #11 - 2nd book)

Los Angeles

9-100 & 9-500. **Con Dui Club.**

Apparently an ethnic Vietnamese club in Los Angeles, for a time presumed to be a tavern in Vietnam for U.S. military personnel. Anillo die trials for this club exist which suggest a 1930s date. The name Con Dui has to do with a small rodent known throughout Southeast Asia, something like a guinea pig or hamster. (Google *Con Dui* for Anillo 5¢ image.)

The two Chinese counterstamps 群 / 敘 stand for "group meeting". I have 5¢, 10¢ and \$5 tokens with no countermarks. Different Southeast

Asian nationalities use Chinese characters on tokens for various purposes, mostly gambling.

Monterey

1. **Quong Sun Kee.** (Re-assigned from pp. 82-83 & 116) Californian Jeffrey McBride located *Quong Sun Kee Company, Chinese Mdse*, in the *Monterey City Directory* for the years 1907 through 1913 at 316 Washington Street. Also listed erroneously in the *International Chinese Business Directory 1913* as "Quong Sun Lee."

The name was mentioned in the *Santa Cruz (California) Evening News*, Dec. 26, 1911, when the manager of Quong Sun Kee Company in Monterey was arrested for smuggling undocumented immigrants into the U.S.

Oakland

15-25. **Lew Gong.** (Re-assigned from 1st Supplement pp. 16-17 & 24) The U.S. Census for 1920 shows Lew Gong, age 23, the oldest of four boys living with both parents at 1034 Pine Street, Oakland. He and his family were immigrants.

That year he worked at the Pacific Coast Cannery, 12th & Pine Streets where his father was foreman. The cannery was founded by West Coast entrepreneur Lew Hing, very likely a relative.

Documentation and Commentary

(Lew Gong concluded)

No other census entries were found for Lew Gong in Oakland or nearby settlements. A search of city and telephone directories from 1920 through 1940 shows one listing for a telephone in 1921 under his father's name, Lew Bow, at the Pine Street address.

The data do not suggest any business activity requiring tokens although a cannery might have used brass checks in accounting for piece work. Perhaps the token was issued later somewhere else. (See Album S.F. #L37; and Kappen S.F. #1425.)

Placerville

1. Go to Ma's, Stone House.

According to Ron Lerch of Sacramento this token was manufactured by the Henry Sleeper Company of Sacramento between 1910 and 1920, probably nearer to 1915.

It was further documented by Mans Kjellin, Museum Commissioner of the *El Dorado County Historical Museum, Placerville*, in a 2018 e-mail: "*During this point of time (1910-20 - jfs) Sadie Hing Tye, or Mrs. Sadie Hall, had an establishment in this building (Stone House - jfs). She supplied room and board for Chinese laborers, made lunches and collected wages.*" ... "*Not as interesting as a bordello token. For which I have found no proof of*" (Note:

Chinese in the U.S.A. commonly have both Chinese and American names. jfs)

The word 'Ma' 媽 on the token means 'mother' in all Chinese dialects. There are other uses for the anglicized term 'ma' but in this context "mother" is the main candidate. I have little doubt the tenants at Stone House called Sadie Hall *Ma Hing Tye*, or used a title close to that, given the tasks she performed for them. She was the 'Ma' on the token, something like a 'mother superior,' not a madame. (Album #70Z; Kappen #34)

San Francisco

48. Lee Sing. A second token for this merchant listed in the 1912 phone book at 672 Jackson Street. The small place is now *Red's Place Cocktails*, a Chinese-owned watering hole on the NW corner of Jackson and Beckett Streets. (See pp. 26-27 & 97)

San Rafael

1-50. Kwong Duck Wo. Listed in the *International Chinese Business Directory 1913* as *Quong Tuck Wo & Co., General Mdse, 710 1/2 C St.* Other denominations must have existed. This piece is very likely rare. (When writing Chinese names with the English alphabet spelling variations are common. See below Dai Lung / Tie Lung.)

Documentation and Commentary

CALIFORNIA Chinese Character Legends

San Francisco

C4-5. (Re-assigned from pp. 143 & 160)

大隆 (Dai Lung - big prosperity). S.F. Telephone Directory 1917, *Tie Lung Co., 101 Waverly Place, general mdse.* There were a number of token issuers in Waverly Place from 1910 through 1920.

Stockton

C1-10. **松** (Chung - Pine Tree), a *10 Points* addition to the the C-1 series.

C2. **昌** (Cheung - prosperous). Greever has found five new sizes with this character primarily from the Anillo Corp. aluminum die trial series. Denominations posted here are estimates based on the *C1 Chung* series. (See pp. 125 & 154. Anillo restrikes may vary from 1 to 1.5mm in diameter from actual size. Anillo is discussed in the next section: *Tokens With Attribution Issues*)

C7. **合利** (Hop Lee - gather benefit) Two new reverses have been located by Richard Greever, both on Anillo die trials. Obverses will likely be the same as those already known. (See pp. 129 & 155)

C8. **利合 / 部樂俱** (Hop Lee Kuey Lok Bu - gather benefit club) Three new reverses located by Greever from

Anillo Die Trials. Obverses remain the same as that shown.

HAWAI'I

Pahala

1. **Ah Ling** (owner's name). An update in text listings of the tokens. This time I was able to examine all three pieces first-hand and re-write the text descriptions. Courtesy of Richard Greever. (See pp. 47 & 104)

ILLINOIS

2. **Wee Ying Lo.** Listed in the *International Chinese Business Directory 1913* as Wee Ying Lo, restaurant, 124 South Clark Street. Courtesy of John Mutch at the Token and Medal Society.

NEW MEXICO

Hillsboro

1. **Tom Ying Cafe, Twenty One Meals.** A meal ticket from one of Tom Ying's cafes. (See 1st Supplement, pp. 10-11 & 22)

OREGON

Chinese Character Legends

Portland

C1-A26. **公信** (Kung Sun - public confidence), 26mm. An unreported size from the aluminum versions of this gaming series. (See pp. 132 & 183)

Documentation and Commentary

LATIN AMERICA Chinese Character Legends

Lima, Peru

C1. The top-to-bottom two characters are currently undecipherable. They no doubt had a local meaning and likely represent the name of the issuing house.

The two right-to-left characters are 秘 (Mee - Perú, and Yat, the numeral 1 used for financial transactions). The left character radical is missing its top stroke and was abbreviated to one character instead of two. Essentially the horizontal glyphs state "1 Sol of Peruvian currency." Probably from the 1920s- 1930s. There is a 5 denomination not examined.

UNATTRIBUTED TOKENS English Alphabet Legends

1-5. **Chung Jow 5¢.** An addition to this series courtesy of Richard Greever. The reverse of the \$1 token appears on tokens from both Oregon and Washington. (See pp. 79 & 115. Also see Hemphill pp. 77 & 499 for reverses.)

16. **Quong Sun Kee.** (pp. 82-83 & 116) Attributed and assigned to Monterey, California.

17-50. **Republic Company.** (pp. 82-83, 116) Greever has found Anillo die trials for this token. His find suggests the

origin of the series may be from Southern California. (See this supplement "Tokens With Attribution Issues")

28-25. **Yellow Front.** The token has appeared several times on the internet and remains unidentified. There were a series of Yellow Front stores in the southwest U.S. during the 1950s, but the token seems earlier than that, possibly 1930s.

Its two Chinese characters *gung wo* 共和 also appear on *Gung Wo* (pp. 130 & 156) and *Republic Company* tokens (pp. 83 & 116 and just above). The characters for "republic" were popular just after the collapse of the Chinese Empire in 1911. Whether any of the three pieces are related to one another has not been determined.

Probably not from the West Coast.

29-25. **Lew Gong.** (1st Suppl. pp. 16-17 & 124) Attributed and assigned to Oakland, California.

29-5. **Charlie Wai.** From an obverse-only image sent by the late Ron Lerch. Nothing is known about this one which is probably not from the West Coast.

Documentation and Commentary

UNATTRIBUTED TOKENS

Chinese Character Legends

C2-10. 共和 10 (Gung Wo - republic).
An addition to the Gung Wo series.
Image also available on the following
internet site:

My Collection/Roy's Collection

<<http://www.chinesecol.com/treasure12.html>>

Attempts to correspond with the e-mail
site have been unsuccessful. (See Yellow
Front above and pp. 130 & 156)

C4-5. 大隆 (Dai Lung) Attributed and
assigned to San Francisco. (See above
and pp. 143 & 160.)

C19-5. 新 / 利 (Sun Lee - new benefit),
an addition to the 50 piece listed.
Courtesy of John Mutch of the Token
and Medal Society. (See pp. 149 & 161)

C25-2. 美 / 華 / 隆 (Mei Wah Lung -
American Chinese Prosperity). The reverse
resembles those of two other San
Francisco cigar tokens (see Kong Yick pp.
26, 27 & 97 and pp. 124 & 153)

C26-50. 榮 (Wing - honor, glory, a family
name). A note scribbled on the old
holder states "Watsonville."

C27-100. 源 協 / 壹 (Yun Hip, Yat -
harmony source, \$1). Possibly Stockton.

CHINA

Shanghai - The E.T. Riley tokens.

Thanks to the website of the Shanghai
Token Society I was able to prepare
images of a lion's share of these pieces.
Most Riley tokens bear 10¢ values
although some issuers used 5¢ and 20¢.
The tokens were cheaply made with one
or two word incuse legends on the obverse
of 21mm brass discs. At least three
common reverses were used. The Riley
pieces are often confused with U.S. tokens
as names on the tokens are U.S.-
sounding.

The manufacturer of these tokens was E.T.
"Jack" Riley, an American escaped
convict whose exploits are amply
described by other writers.

From the early 20th Century up to World
War II Shanghai was a mix of Chinese and
Europeans with colonies of British,
French, American and other nationalities
occupying whole sections of the city. The
U.S. Fourth Marines maintained a major
military installation nearby.

From World War I until World War II
Shanghai was also a party-goers paradise
though others described it as a hell-hole.
Laws about gambling, prostitution and
crime were pretty loose, probably more so
than in San Francisco's old Barbary Coast.
The issuers of these tokens were a
substantial part of Shanghai life in
those times.

Tokens With Attribution Issues

Doubts have been raised about the attribution of several tokens brought to light by recent studies of Anillo Die Trials by Richard Greever.

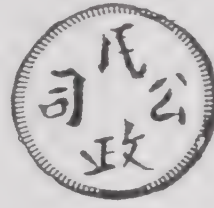


Community Club gaming checks have long been assigned to San Francisco. Through the 1960s and '70s the known denominations, \$1, \$5, and \$20, were commonly seen at collector gatherings, but recently almost never. In 1970 the late Richard Herberg became the only source of their attribution in his *Chinese-American Tokens of California*. His comment was brief: "*Community Club of San Francisco, copper or bronze (varieties).*" (Shown is the \$1 image. Otherwise see pp. 20-21, 94 & 183.)

In 2018 Richard Greever obtained a series of images of restrikes manufactured in 1968 and 1969 by Anillo Corporation of Southern California. Anillo had purchased all dies manufactured by the defunct Los Angeles Rubber Stamp Company and using them struck a vast number of single-faced aluminum discs. Among Greever's images was a Community Club \$20 restrike.

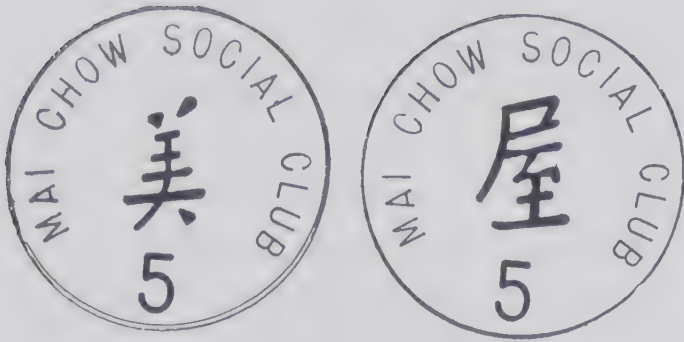
LARS manufactured few tokens for enterprises in San Francisco largely because that city had its own widely-known diesinkers. However LARS did make Chinese-related tokens in quantity for gambling houses in Stockton as well as for businesses in general throughout Southern California.

Greever's discovery casts doubt on Herberg's San Francisco attribution. The Community Club tokens' English legend gives us no clue as to where they were used. A hint might lie in the tokens' three Chinese characters: 館湖東 *tung wuh gwun* - *East Lake House*. San Francisco Bay might be the "lake" in question, but for now it remains speculation.



Democrat Co. and Min Chin Co. (pp. 78-79, 80-81 & 115) Among his Anillo series Greever found an example showing the reverse common to both *Democrat Co.* and *Min Chin Co.* tokens. My thinking so far had been that the two (and their collective reverse) had come from the Oregon and Washington areas. The die trials suggest that Democrat/Min Chin may be from points much farther south.

Tokens With Attribution Issues



Mai Chow Social Club (pp. 26-27 & 97)

A San Francisco attribution for the Mai Chows has always been shaky. When found they are often mixed together with the look-alike *Wai Yuen Chinese Social Club* tokens (pp. 30-31 & 99).

Both were manufactured by Patrick & Company of San Francisco according to Kappen who obtained specimens of both from that company as well as the undisclosed name of a San Francisco purchaser. The Wai Yuens were easily located in the San Francisco telephone book at 933 Stockton Street for 1940, one year only, but the Mai Chows were not. Because the two series are often found together San Francisco *de facto* became the attribution for both.

Reports from Sacramento collector Ron Lerch pointed to the Sacramento River Delta area of California as another possible locale, particularly Walnut Grove and Locke which historically had large Chinese communities.

Contacts with Delta Area old-timers turned out to be pleasant but

unproductive. One I talked to, Clifford Lee, was a childhood runner for the Walnut Grove keno game in the early 1940s. He knew all the gambling houses but couldn't remember any names. Another Delta old timer thought the Mai Chows looked too fancy for small Delta towns.

I have a gambling chip *Ngh Jau* (Color Plate 4, pp. 172 & 176) the old holder of which states *Mai Chow Social Club, Walnut Grove*. A now-forgotten list of California gambling chips listed the same information. Possibly there was more than one Mai Chow.



Republic Company (pp. 82-83 & 116;

See listing elsewhere in this paper)

Greever's searches with the Anillo trials unearthed a reference to a *Republic Company* in early newspaper clippings relating to a Bakersfield cigar store which had been broken into and robbed. Since Bakersfield was in the L.A. Rubber Stamp Company's main sales area, the possibility of this Republic Company being the issuer is worth consideration.

Many Chinese firms in California also used the name "Republic." Deciding which was the token-issuer may turn out to be difficult.

(Your comments are welcome at
<jschim40@sbcglobal.net>)

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Advertisement by the Sue chung Kee Co. of Hanford, California
in the *International Chinese Business Directory* 1913 (Page 68)
(See my catalog pp. 6-7 & 89)

Scrapbook



(Enlarged. Actual size is 63mm diameter.)

An advertising mirror from *Sedería El Sol*, Yet Sun & Co. Inc., Proprietors.
No.1 Central Ave., Panama (City), Republic of Panama.
Probably dating from 1910-1930. A *sedería* is a silk goods store.

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Chinese Character Legends

(Chinese text is listed by the radical of the first character. Read left to right)

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